Wilson: Hit With One-Liners

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Jerry Vernon Wilson proved yesterday that he is as fast on his feet as the shahs and high officials who have answered and ducked Washington-style questions since 1908.

The city's police chief was the luncheon speaker at the National Press Club. He chose to speak about last May's demonstrations here.

To applause, he said he would again suspend the use of field arrest forms. To sympathetic headshakes, he criticized those of his foes "with faultless 20-20 hindsight."

And to chuckles, he declared: "If you want to find with my (Mayday) instructions, you can blame the President. If you want to find fault with the execution, you can blame me."

In a question period that followed, Wilson parried and thrust this way:

Was it wise to further burden the city's courts with all those Mayday arrests? "It won't hurt the courts to work some midnight hours."

Would he decline if the President appointed him head of the FBI? "I'm not allowed to lobby for jobs that aren't open."

What did he think of the Virginia youth recently sentenced to sit in a pigpen for calling a policeman a pig? "Contemplation is good for the soul."

College for cops/ "Not as a policy here." Guns in the home? "A lot of people end up shooting their wives. If that's your objective, well, O K." Register guns? "There are other things to do first."

Asked if he had new plans to handle a "second Mayday" reportedly planned here for October, Wilson said he didn't "anticipate letting the city close down, if that's what you mean."

He said facilities would be ready "well in advance" if there were to be arrests on a Mayday scale again, and he said the department was "experiment with new methods to simplify the identification of the arresting officer and the arrestee."